Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Wilson, Larry David. 1988. *Tantilla equatoriana.*

Tantilla equatoriana Wilson and Mena

Tantilla equatoriana Wilson and Mena, 1980: 23. Type-locality, "San Lorenzo, Prov. Esmeraldas, Ecuador." Holotype, Nat. Mus. Nat. Hist (USNM) 198530, an adult (?) male, collected in May 1951 by M. Olalla (examined by author).

• **Content**. No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition and Diagnosis**. A species of *Tantilla* with a multilineate pattern consisting of dark stripes on a tan ground color. The dark stripes are located on the middle of scale row 1, adjacent halves of rows 2 and 3, adjacent portions of rows 4 and 5, the middle of row 6, and the middle of the middorsal scale row. The venter is immaculate cream. The head pattern consists of a brown head cap grading into a dark brown nape band which extends 4 scales posterior to the parietals. A pair of pale spots punctuate the dark head cap-nape band, occurring on the posterior portion of the parietals and posterior temporals, as well as on two postparietal scales. Pale markings are also present on the snout and supralabials, including a pale postocular spot, which is in contact with the pale coloration of the lateral gulars and is not separated by a lateral extension of the dark head cap. There is no pale neck band. There are 142-147 ventrals and 77-79 subcaudals. *Tantilla equatoriana* may be distinguished from all congeners by having a multilineate dorsal pattern of narrow dark stripes on a tan background, including a dark middorsal stripe, a head pattern consisting of a dark head cap and nape band punctuated by a pair of pale nuchal spots, a pale postocular spot in contact with the pale lateral gulars, 142-147 ventrals and 77-79 subcaudals.

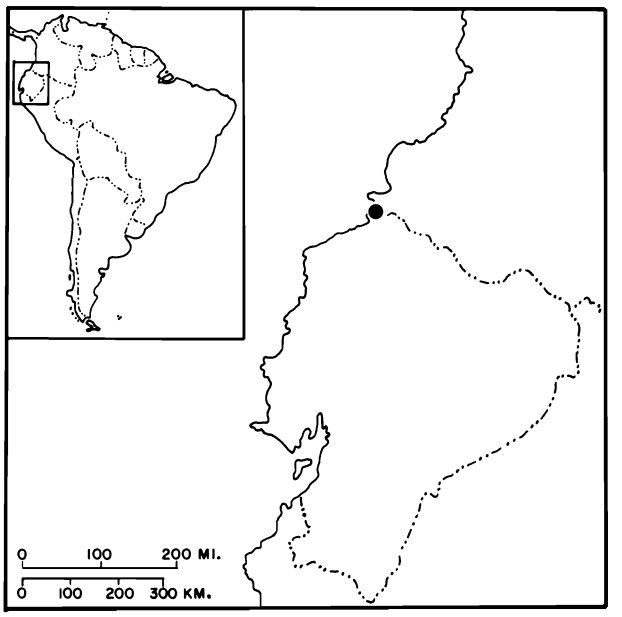
• **Descriptions.** Only the original description (Wilson and Mena, 1980) and that of Wilson (1987) exist.

• **Illustrations**. Wilson and Mena (1980) provided pen-and-ink drawings of lateral, dorsal, and ventral views of the anterior body, as well as of the dorsal color pattern. The color pattern illustration was reprinted in Wilson (1987).

• **Distribution**. *Tantilla equatoriana* is known only from the type-locality at a low elevation (near sea-level) on the coastal plain of extreme northwestern Ecuador.

• **Pertinent Literature.** All the information known for this species is in Wilson and Mena's (1980) revision of the *Tantilla melanocephala* group, except for its listing in a summary of the genus (Wilson, 1982) and its discussion in a résumé of the South American members of the genus *Tantilla* (Wilson, 1987).

• **Fossil Record.** None.



Map. Solid circle indicates the type-locality.

• **Etymology**. The name *equatoriana* is derived from the Late Latin *aequator,* meaning "equator" and the feminine Latin suffix *-iana,* meaning "belonging to," in reference to this snake's occurrence near the equator and in the Republic of Ecuador. The name is intended as a Latinization of the Spanish word *ecuatoriana,* meaning "Ecuadoran female."

Literature Cited

Wilson, Larry David. 1982. *Tantilla*. Cat. Amer. Amphib. Rept.: 307.1-307-4.

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Larry David Wilson, Department of Biology, Miami-Dade Community College, Miami, Florida 33176.

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